

Dear Legislators, Ladies & Gentlemen:

>>> A persistent problem in this land of steady habits has been the lack of effective regional government. Nowhere is this problem more clearly demonstrated than in public transportation which, it should go without saying, is regional at its core.

>>> Southwestern CT has 7 separate transit districts serving fewer than 1 million residents, whereas New York City and Long Island with a population of 22 million has a single transit district, as does New Jersey with a population of 8.9 million.

>>> Unless we pass this bill, the \$1.2 billion dollars which CT expects to receive from the federal government for transportation will be diluted by allocation among multiple transit districts and will do little to address the fundamental inefficiencies in our current system.

>>> No further study is required to understand that consolidation of CT's public transport into a single system overseen by a statewide governmental authority will improve service to the public, increase operational and fiscal efficiency and, properly administered, contribute to the reduction of congestion on our streets and highways.

>>> I urge you to pass this bill.

Very truly yours,

>>> Lawrence P. Weisman

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